

Application No. 10/807,409

Attorney Docket No. 505US

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. – 31. (Cancelled)

32. (New) A stretchable web comprising:

a first three-dimensional webbed material having a first plurality of elongated cells, wherein said cells have a major and minor axes and an aspect ratio of about 5 to about 15, and are aligned along their major axes to provide mechanical elasticity in a direction perpendicular to their alignment, and

a retractive force mechanism disposed so as to provide increased retractive force to the first plurality of elongated cells in a direction opposite of said mechanical elasticity, wherein said retractive force mechanism is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) at least one lane in said first webbing material having a second plurality of elongated cells, wherein the cells of said lane:
 - i. are disposed between lanes consisting essentially of said first plurality of elongated cells;
 - ii. are spatially smaller than the cells of said first plurality;
 - iii. have major and minor axes and are aligned along their major axes; and
 - iv. have an aspect ratio that is less than the aspect ratio of the cells of said first plurality;
- (b) a reinforcing layer bonded to the first webbed material at a plurality of points via an adhesive applied in a zig-zag pattern;

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(c) a second three-dimensional webbed material bonded to the first webbed material, wherein said second webbed material has a second plurality of elongated cells that have an aspect ratio of about 5 to about 15 and that are aligned along their major axes, said alignment being nonparallel to the alignment of the first plurality of elongated cells; and

(d) at least one bridging element extending across at least a portion of the first plurality of elongated cells in a direction orthogonal to the cells' alignment and having edges offset from the cell's distal ends.

33. (New) The stretchable web of claim 32 wherein said retractive force mechanism is at least one lane in said first webbing material having a second plurality of elongated cells, wherein the cells of said lane:

- i. are disposed between lanes consisting essentially of said first plurality of elongated cells;
- ii. are spatially smaller than the cells of said first plurality;
- iii. have major and minor axes and are aligned along their major axes; and
- iv. have an aspect ratio that is less than the aspect ratio of the cells of said first plurality.

34. (New) The stretchable web of claim 33 wherein said first plurality of cells are disposed in two or more lanes.

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35. (New) The stretchable web of claim 33 wherein said lanes of said first and second plurality of cells each consist essentially of single rows of elongated cells.

36. (New) The stretchable web of claim 33 wherein said second plurality of smaller elongated cells are three dimensional and unapertured.

37. (New) The stretchable web of claim 36 wherein said first plurality of elongated cells are apertured.

38. (New) The stretchable web of claim 32 wherein said retractive force mechanism is a reinforcing layer bonded to the first webbed material at a plurality of points via an adhesive applied in a zig-zag pattern.

39. (New) The stretchable web of claim 38 wherein the reinforcing layer is selected from the group consisting of film, non-woven, woven, necked non-woven, slit non-woven, apertured non-woven, apertured film, apertured film with elongated apertures, laminates, incrementally stretched non-wovens, and mixtures thereof.

40. (New) The stretchable web of claim 32 wherein said retractive force mechanism is a second three-dimensional webbed material bonded to the first webbed material, wherein said second webbed material has a second plurality of elongated cells that have an aspect ratio of about 5 to about 15 and that are aligned along their major axes, said alignment being nonparallel to the alignment of the first plurality of elongated cells.

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41. (New) The stretchable web of claim 40 wherein said alignment of the second plurality of cells is offset from said alignment of the first plurality of cells by about 10°.

42. (New) The stretchable web of claim 40 wherein said alignment of the second plurality of cells is orthogonal to said alignment of the first plurality of cells.

43. (New) The stretchable web of claim 42 wherein said alignment of the second plurality of cells is in the machine direction and said alignment of the first plurality of cells is in the cross direction.

44. (New) The stretchable web of claim 40 wherein said second plurality of cells are spatially smaller than said first plurality of cells.

45. (New) The stretchable web of claim 40 wherein said second plurality of cells have an aspect ratio that is smaller than the aspect ratio of said first plurality of cells.

46. (New) The stretchable web of claim 32 wherein said retractive force mechanism is at least one bridging element extending across at least a portion of the first plurality of elongated cells in a direction orthogonal to the cells' alignment and having edges offset from the cell's distal ends.

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47. (New) The stretchable web of claim 46 wherein said bridging elements are two-dimensional and exist on the upper surface of the web.

48. (New) The stretchable web of claim 46 wherein said bridging elements are three-dimensional having walls that extend through the cell.

49. (New) The stretchable web of claim 46 wherein said bridging elements are constructed of the same material as the web.

50. (New) The stretchable web of claim 46 wherein said bridging elements are thin strips of nonwoven material or film that are bonded to the web in a direction orthogonal to said cell alignment.

51. (New) The stretchable web of claim 50 wherein a plurality of said strips traverse at least a portion of said cells.

52. (New) The stretchable web of claim 50 wherein said strips are centered along the length of the cell it bridges.

53. (New) The stretchable web of claim 50 wherein said strips are ruptured across said cells.